

A linear seat recliner for use in a motor vehicle having a seat with a seat back pivotally connected to a seat bottom. The seat is operable in a plurality of use positions ranging from an upright position to a fully reclined position. The linear seat recliner includes a housing adapted to be coupled to one of the seat back and the seat bottom, a latching mechanism coupled to the housing, and a recliner rod. The recliner rod includes a body having a first end and a second end. The body has a substantially planar top flat diametrically opposed and parallel to a substantially planar bottom flat. The top flat includes a plurality of teeth positioned at the first end of the body. The first end of the recliner rod is selectively engageable by the latching mechanism and the second end of the recliner rod is adapted to be coupled to the other of the seat back and the seat bottom.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims in accordance with the following rewritten claims in clean form. Applicants include herewith an Attachment for Claim Amendments showing a marked up version of each amended claim.

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1. (AMENDED) A linear seat recliner for use in a motor vehicle having a seat with a seat back pivotally connected to a seat bottom, the seat being operable in a plurality of use positions ranging from an upright position to a fully reclined position, the linear seat recliner comprising:

a housing adapted to be coupled to one of the seat back and the seat bottom;

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a latching mechanism coupled to said housing and actuatable relative said housing between a latched position and an unlatched position; and

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a recliner rod including a body having a first end and a second end, said body having a substantially planar top flat diametrically opposed and parallel to a substantially planar bottom flat, said top flat including a plurality of teeth positioned at said first end of said body, said first end of said recliner rod selectively engaged with said latching mechanism and said second end of said recliner rod adapted to be coupled to the other of the seat back and the seat bottom; and

wherein said latching mechanism prevents relative axial movement of said recliner rod when in said latched position and said latching mechanism allows relative axial movement of said recliner rod when in said unlatched position.

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8. (AMENDED) A reclining seat assembly comprising:

a seat bottom having a side rail;

a seat back having a support rail pivotally coupled to said side rail;

a linear seat recliner including a housing secured to one of said side rail and said support rail;

a recliner rod having a first end supported for relative linear motion within said housing and a second end having an aperture, said recliner rod having a substantially planar top flat and a substantially planar bottom flat positioned parallel thereto, said second end pivotally coupled to the other of said side rail and said support rail; and

a latching mechanism coupled to said housing and actuatable relative said housing between a latched position where said latching mechanism prevents relative axial

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movement of said recliner rod and an unlatched position where said latching mechanism allows relative axial movement of said recliner rod.

Please add the following new claims.

21. (NEW) The linear seat recliner of Claim 1 wherein said second end of said recliner rod includes a ball joint assembly to couple the recliner rod to the other of the seat back and the seat bottom.

22. (NEW) The reclining seat assembly of Claim 8 wherein said second end of said recliner rod includes a ball joint assembly to pivotally couple the recliner rod to the other of said side rail and said support rail.

IN THE DRAWINGS

Proposed changes to the drawings have been submitted in a paper entitled: "Letter to the Official Draftsperson Submitting Proposed Drawing Changes in Red Ink," filed this same date. Further, formal drawings have been submitted herewith including the proposed changes.